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Renata Hesse  
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601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
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Dear Attorney Hesse,

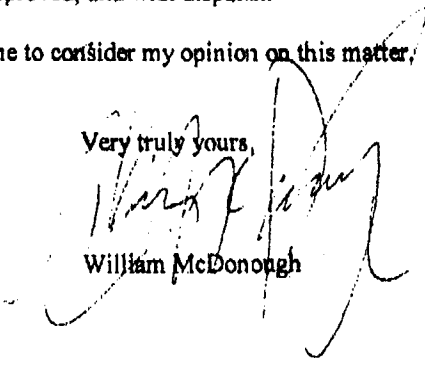
It is my understanding that you are accepting public comment with regard to the Microsoft antitrust case, and the settlement proposal now before Judge Colleen Kollar Kotelly. I would like to express my hope that the settlement is accepted and that this case can end. I do not know the intricacies of antitrust law, but I can infer from what I read that much of this is subjective in nature: more gray area than black and white. As such, I believe the settlement process is an appropriate way to settle the case and get this out of the courts.

If I might be somewhat optimistic at this point, I think much good can come of this. Consider: the Justice Department achieves a means to regulate and monitor Microsoft's activity; Microsoft is allowed to continue the business model that has worked so well for them; the other companies bringing complaint receive some measures of remedy; the public, especially investors and those in related industries, get some much-needed certainty in the settlement; and ideally the national economy will take the settlement as something of a spark to get us out of the recession.

Perhaps I am too hopeful, but I would guess not. This settlement proposal is evidence that disagreeing parties in the corporate and legal worlds can reach accommodation at times. And that in itself is good news. I hope the settlement is approved, and with dispatch.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion on this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
William McDonough